

AR VICTORIAN EXPLORATION EXPE-
DITION.

[FROM OUR MELBOURNE CORRESPONDENT.]
Your readers have already been informed by telegram of the return of a part of the Victorian exploring expedition without any late news of their leader Mr. Burke. The first intimation of the return of the party was received in Melbourne on Saturday evening, by telegraph from Sandhurst, and the wildest rumours of death and disaster prevailed during the night and part of Sunday, until they were set at rest by an extraordinary meeting of the Exploration Committee of the Royal Society, held on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Brahe, who was left in command of the depot at Cooper's Creek on the 16th December, by Mr. Burke, is the bearer of the sad intelligence of privation and loss of life which has attended this unsuccessful attempt to cross the continent. Dr. Ludwig Becker, and Messrs. Purcell, Stone, and Patton have fallen victims to scurvy and dysentery, and Mr. Burke (leader), and Messrs. Wills (second in command), King, and Gray had not returned to Cooper's Creek up to the absent week in May, after having been absent five months with only three months' provisions. Burke and his party left Cooper's Creek on 16th December, with six camels and one horse, making for Byre's Creek, and intending from that point to start direct for the Gulf of Carpentaria, as will be seen by his despatch of the 13th December. His statements to Mr. Brahe were, that he should proceed cautiously, and that he should not risk Mr. Burke's companions had very little in his hands. The provisions were left behind at the depot for three months, or longer if the provisions would admit of it, and then, if required, to return to Menindee. Brahe erected a stockade, and waited patiently at Cooper's Creek until the 21st April, when, hearing nothing of either Burke's party or Wright's contingent, and finding his companions overcome with sickness and privation, he commenced to retrace his steps towards Menindee. In a matter of this pressing interest, it will be as well to let the several written statements of Burke, Brahe, and Wright speak for themselves.

MR. BRAHE'S STATEMENTS.
Melbourne, June 30, 1861.

To the Hon. Secretary Exploration Committee, Melbourne.
Sir, I have the honour to report to you, for the information of the committee, that on the 10th of December last Mr. Burke gave me orders to start for Byre's Creek en route for the Gulf of Carpentaria, at the minutes past six a.m., on the same day. His party consisted of Mr. Burke, Mr. Wills, King, and Gray. He took with him six camels and one horse. The party was provided with provisions for twelve weeks. I accompanied the party for a distance of twenty-two miles along the watercourse of the creek.

The party remaining at the depot consisted of myself, Patton, McDonough, and Donat. My instructions, received by word of mouth, were to return to the depot, and to keep the depot, in provisions and other circumstances would permit.

I left the party at four o'clock p.m. on the same day, and returned to the depot.

On the following day, the 17th of December, we commenced cutting timber, for the purpose of erecting a stockade.

December 22.—Natives, about twenty-five in number, approached the camp, but I considered it advisable not to allow them to come near the tent.

December 30.—On several days during the week we were annoyed by a number of natives. On Wednesday they succeeded in stealing six camel pack-bags, on the turn of the water's edge to dry. The thief, by keeping under shelter of the high bank, escaped unobserved. Noticing the loss only late in the afternoon, I did not think it advisable to go in pursuit.

During the night of Thursday, I observed two blacks within 100 yards of the camp, but on my shouting to them they ran off.

On the 23rd, finished the stockade, twenty feet by sixteen feet, and put up Mr. Burke's tent within it. In this tent I kept the provisions, and the camels, which were kept tied up at night under cover of our guns.

December 31.—Observed some black tracks stealing stealthily along the banks of the creek towards the camp, while one of them directed them from behind a big tree. I allowed them to come within twenty paces of the camp, when suddenly I called out to them, and at the same time fired my gun. They fled, and I saw them running away. They seemed much frightened, and hardly able to run away. Great numbers of blacks came near us.

January 8, 1861.—A large number of natives came to the camp, whose demeanour roused my suspicion. Got hold of a young native, and showed him off, when he fell down. In the afternoon, the whole tribe returned, the men armed, some with spears and some with boomerangs; some of them had painted their faces and bodies with ochre. I met them about a mile from the camp, and, marking a circle round it, I gave them to understand that they would be fired at if they entered it. On some of them crossing the line, I fired at my own discretion, and they retired, and did not molest us any more.

January 24.—I should like to explore the neighbourhood a little, but cannot safely leave the camp for longer than three or four hours; one of the men looking on the time being of the greater part of the day, while the other is away from four to five hours daily to prevent the horses from straying. I should have mentioned that I had charge of six camels and twelve horses, two of the camels very scabby. Great is getting very dry and scarce near the camp. We are obliged to hang all our stores on boughs of trees, to protect them from the rats, of which we killed about every night for some time.

February 25.—I rode up the creek, bearing N.W. by N. from the depot. It is distant about nine miles, and one of a chain of hills running N.E. and S.W. From the top of this hill I saw another range of hills, about fifteen or twenty miles, much broken, and considerably higher than the one I was on. The country between the two is stony, like that between the first range and the depot.

March 1.—Natives less numerous. Looking out anxiously for Mr. Burke's return, the day I took a ride up the creek, which joins Cooper's Creek, opposite our camp, coming from E.S.E., following it up about six miles, and found bed and banks thickly timbered with myrtle. The country in that direction is very stony. From the top of a stony rise I saw a low range running E. and W., distant about 15 miles. Blacks passing now and then, offering us nuts and fish. We made it a rule never to accept the least thing from them, but made some of these little presents, as left-off clothes.

March 15.—About twenty-five natives with their families passed here last night on their way up the creek, offering nuts and fish. They gave me to understand that there would be plenty of water in the creek shortly, and that we might wait on the flat stockade was on.

April 1.—During the first twenty-four days of March the water in the creek was so low that it was expected for the season, and especially the nights were intolerably sultry, a great deal more so than the warmest of January. On the 24th there was a sudden change; it began to blow hard, the nights became very cool, and on the evening of the 20th we observed lightning in all quarters, and heard thunder in the north. A slight shower of rain fell between eight and nine o'clock p.m., and another on the following morning, not sufficient, however, to lay the dust. The blackstockade was away from the camp. They carried it about a mile down the creek, where Patton overtook them, and recovered the saddle, but it was too late to pick up.

April 1.—Patton commenced showing the horses, lest he might become incapacitated by disease, as he felt very unwell.

April 4.—Patton, after showing two horses, was obliged to take to bed, and was not able to get up, and was not afterwards able to move about.

April 15.—Patton is getting worse. I and McDonough began to feel alarming symptoms of the same disease.

April 18.—There is no probability of Mr. Burke returning this way. Patton is in a deplorable state,

and doctors of being removed to the Darling to obtain medical assistance, and our provisions will soon be reduced to a quantity insufficient to take us back to the Darling, if the tide should turn out difficult and tedious. Being also short of food, and McDonough would not much longer escape scurvy, I am most seriously considering all circumstances, made up my mind to start for the Darling on Sunday next, the 21st. The horses have lately got into the habit of straying; missed at five of those days, and on Monday we had a welcome rain for the first time since the 8th December (except some slight showers on the 14th and 15th of March). The last three days have been fine and cool, but now the sun looks like rain, although the barometer is very high—higher, indeed, than it has been during our stay here.

April 21.—Left the depot at ten o'clock a.m., leaving 50 lbs. of flour, 50 lbs. of oatmeal, 50 lbs. of sugar, and 30 lbs. of rice, near the stockade, at the foot of a large tree, and marked the word "Dig" on the tree. I took 150 lbs. of flour, 75 lbs. of oatmeal, and 40 lbs. of sugar, and a small quantity of biscuits. Taking into consideration that we would be obliged to travel slowly on account of Patton, and on account of the scarcity of water, which I calculated to have to consume, and would probably be on the road to the Darling at least six or seven days, I could not take less provisions. Patton was placed on a quiet camel. We travelled very slowly, and halted at five o'clock p.m., having made about four miles.

April 22.—Started at eight o'clock, and reached camp 53 (Rata Hole) at half-past eleven a.m., finding the frame of a camel's pack-saddle stuck in a tree. We had put away the saddle in the morning, but the natives had found it. Halted at camp 62.

April 23.—Were visited by about 70 or 80 natives, some of them old acquaintances. Threw away a bag of sugar, and a small quantity of biscuits. The two sick camels. Travelled twenty-eight miles, and halted at camp 60. Splendid grass in bed of creek.

April 24.—Filled two pairs water-bags with water, and started at half-past twelve p.m., going E.S.E. Finding at little water, and plenty of good grass, halted at five p.m. Was compelled to turn away nine pairs of water-bags, to be able to carry water. Finest country in the neighbourhood of Cooper's Creek.

April 25.—Started at eight a.m. From eleven o'clock, passed over very stony country. Three o'clock, stony range. Halted at a quarter past six p.m., between ranges, without water or grass.

April 26.—Having kept a careful watch over the camels and horses, we were enabled to start at half-past six a.m. Till eleven o'clock very stony and scrubby country to pass over. When clear of ranges followed an E.S.E. course, crossing several creeks, without water, running S.W. Track of creek thickly timbered with gum. The creek looked likely to contain some water, but pushed on without searching for it. At three p.m. came upon sandy, well-grassed, and thinly timbered country; saw a variety of birds, pigeons, crows, &c. Reached several small waterholes, with plenty of water, and camped there. We had much trouble to keep the horses from plunging into the water, most of the horses having had no water for 100 hours. I decided upon remaining there the following day, but only to refresh the cattle, but also to search for traces of the Darling party.

April 28.—Went very early in search of the horses upon my camp. I got in sight of them, at the same time observing smoke rising within 300 yards from me and near the horses. There was not light enough to see well, and I thought I had dropped upon a camp of natives, and resolved to try to obtain some news of the party. I noticed the fresh tracks of horses and camels, going in different directions, which were not more than ten to twelve days old, and I conjectured that the party left at Menindee, as at Bulla, or thereabouts. As I could not expect to find water down the creek, I followed up our old track, knowing that there must be water in a large channel which we had passed on our way to Cooper's Creek, about five miles from camp 52. At four p.m. I reached several small waterholes, with plenty of water, and camped there. We had much trouble to keep the horses from plunging into the water, most of the horses having had no water for 100 hours. I decided upon remaining there the following day, but only to refresh the cattle, but also to search for traces of the Darling party.

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To Ironmongers, Zinc Workers, Builders, and Others.

THIS DAY.

L E. THRELKELD and CO. will sell by
auction, at the City Mart, **THIS DAY**, at
11 o'clock,
PK in diamonds, N under,
9 casks sheet zinc, each 5 cwt.
Terms at sale.

Thames Auction Rooms

TUESDAY'S Drapery Sale.
TUESDAY, 9th July,
To Drapers
To Storekeepers and others.
6 1/2 Preliminary Notice.

CHATTO and HUGHES have received in-
structions from the importers to sell by auction
at the **Treasury Auction Rooms**, on **TUESDAY, 9th July**
at 11 o'clock precisely,
Invoices of new and seasonable drapery, ready-made
clothing, &c.
6 1/2 Full particulars in a future issue.

Treasury Auction Rooms.
On an early day.
6 1/2 Choice Furniture.

CHATTO and HUGHES have received instructions from the importers to sell by auction at the Treasury Auction Rooms, on an early day, as soon as the goods are landed.

An invoice of choice perfumery.
Terms at sale.

60 Trunks Boots and Shoes
Boots of
Horn's
Hyde's
All first quality.

MONDAY, July 8th.

To Boot and Shoemakers, Country Barres, and others.

MR. CHARLES TEAKLE will sell by auction, at his Rooms, Wynyard-street MONDAY, July 8th, at 11 o'clock, 60 trunks boots and shoes, all reasonable goods. Now landing ex Riffeman and Morning Star. Particulars in Saturday's issue.

Weekly Produce Sale, THIS DAY, 6th July.

Wool, Sheepskins, Tallow, Hides, Horns, Bones, &c.

MESSRS. DURHAM and IRWIN will sell by auction, at their Produce Stores, Circular Quay, at 11 o'clock precisely,

2300 *Assorted woad*
6300 *Shoepackine*
265 *Cashin tallow*
1717 *Hides*
Horns, bones, &c.
Torons, cash.

In the Intestate Estate of the late George Kerby,
Castlereagh River.
By order of the administrator.

FRIDAY, 12th July, at 12 o'clock.

MESSRS. DURHAM and IRWIN have been instructed by the administrator of the above estate to sell by auction, at their Stores, "Circular Quay,"

30 head of cattle, branded WF on ribs
5 working bullocks
7 head of horses, more or less, branded OK on nose
shoulder, all now running on the Castlereagh River.
Also,
1 dray, 3 yokes, 6 bows, and 2 chains.
Now at the "Yonic" Station, Castlereagh River.
Terms at sale.

Pressed Oaten Hay, Sound Wheat Straw
Fat Pigs, Fat Calves, &c.

Weekly Produce Sale.—Railway Terminus.

THOMAS DAWSON is instructed to

THOMAS LAYTON, the Railway Turnstile, THE DAY, 5th Instant, at 12 o'clock,
Superior fat calves
Dairy fat pigs, both alive and dressed
Dressy eggs, broken and fresh
Pressed oaten hay and wheat straw; and
The usual assortment of country produce.
Fat Withers. Fat Withers.

At the Horse and Race Yards, on **TUESDAY**, the 9th
July, at half-past 10 o'clock.

THOMAS LAYTON is instructed by N. C.
Phillips, Esq., to sell by auction as above,
1200 very superior fat withers, in lots to suit purchasers
at 5s. These sheep are from the flocks of William Rendell,
Esq. of Galloway, and are of the weight of 12 to 14
cwt. each. The Auctioneer has retained several copies of the
sale.

purchase them privately, but has resolved to submit them to public competition in lots, with a view to suit all classes of buyers. The trade generally are, therefore, invited to this sale.

Fat Cattle. Fat Cattle.

At the Homebush Sale Yards, on **TUESDAY, the 9th July**, at half-past 10 o'clock.

THOMAS DAWSON has received instructions from Henry Moore, Esq., to sell at auction, as above.

100 head of prime fat oxen, in lots to suit purchasers.
This is another lot from those far-famed herds of Andrew Brown, Esq., of the Castlereagh River, so justly celebrated by the trade.

BARQUE AURIFERA, A1, 435 tons
register, copper-fastened and sheathed with Muntz metal, in first-class condition, to be sold by auction at Lloyd's Rooms, Colina-street West, Melbourne, on **WEDNESDAY, 10th July**, at 12 o'clock, in consequence of the death of George Dantrell, who hands the ship over to the Government, intended for service, 600
Further particulars in a future advertisement.

ON FRIDAY, the 5th day of July next, at Noon, at the Commercial Hotel, King-street Sydney, unless this writ be previously satisfied, the **SHERIFF** will cause to be sold, by public auction, all the right, title, interest, and estate of the above-named defendant in, and to

All that piece or parcel of land situate in the parish of Saint George, in the County of Cumberland, in the colony of New South Wales, and commencing at a point on the Northern boundary of The Arrols

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales,
Sheriff's Office, Sydney, 27th June.
THURLOW V. FRANKS.
ON FRIDAY, the 5th day of July next.

noon, at the Commercial Hotel, King-street, Sydney, unless this writ be previously satisfied, the **SHERIFF** will cause to be sold by public auction.

ALL the right, title, interest, and estate of the above named estate, together with the premises, and the several parcels of land, situate, lying, and being in the township of Sydney, parish of Saint Lawrence, county of Cumberland, bounded on the north-east side by forty feet two inches of a private road or passage ten feet wide leading to the said premises; on the north-west side by G. Lucas' ground, situate nine feet ten inches; on the south-west side by thirty-three feet four inches of another private road or passage six feet wide, leading to another reserved

All that piece or parcel of land, being allotment number thirty-four, situate in the county of Cumberland, parish of Alexandria; bounded on the north by the town of Newcastle, and on the east by the town of Nuneham, commencing at the corner of the north-east corner in Broadham-street, and bearing by compass east six teen minutes north, eighty-seven feet nine inches to the north-west corner of allotment number twenty-two; and on the east by the west boundary line of allotment number twenty-two, bearing by compass south thirty minutes, east thirty-four feet six inches to the north-east corner of allotment number thirty-five.

five; on the south by the north boundary line of said lot thirty-five, bearing by compass west fifteen degrees and thirty minutes, south, for the distance of one hundred and thirty-one feet; on the west by the east line of Brougham-street, and on the west by the east line of Brougham-street, bearing by compass north thirty degrees and thirty minutes, west thirty-four feet five inches to the corner of said adjoining corner.

All the place or pool of land situated in the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Queensland, and in the city of Alexandria, in the county of Queensland, and in the city of New South Wales, bounded on the south by the number thirty-six by a line in length of seventy-six feet two inches; on the east by Mrs. Woot's land by a line in length of eighteen feet; on the north by Mrs. M. M. O'Leary's site of a lot in length of seventy-four feet eight inches; and on the west by the north boundary line of said lot thirty-five, bearing by compass west fifteen degrees and thirty minutes, south, for the distance of one hundred and thirty-one feet.

line of eighteen feet.

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